I Claim:

1. An adaptor device for firing a gun of a predetermined calibre loaded with a missile of a reduced calibre, said gun including a barrel with a large-calibre interior diameter, a firing chamber of a similar diameter and axially aligned with said barrel and designed to hold a standard-calibre ammunition round and firing means including a firing pin for impinging into the rear part of said chamber for firing the gun, *wherein* the adaptor device includes an elongated tubular casing (11) having an external shape generally approximating or replicating said standard calibre ammunition round, said casing having:

a rear end and a nose end, the latter for pointing towards the barrel muzzle of the gun,

a seat (36) for said primer provided at said casing rear end,

a base (27) removibly attached to said casing rear end to retain said primer in said seat, said base provided with an orifice (33) for passage of said firing pin therethrough,

a longitudinal bore (15) of a diameter which is substantially that of said reduced calibre, said bore extending from said casing nose end towards a position inside said casing intermediate said rear and nose ends,

an inward rim forming a missile seat at the rearward end of said bore, and

a narrow passageway (41) for passing expansion gases generated by said primer detonating to said missile to propel said munition out of said bore and the firearm barrel.

2. The adaptor device of claim 1, wherein said base is screwable onto said casing rear end after a primer has been placed in said primer seat and unscrewable off said casing rear end to discard spent primer reamins.

3. The adaptor device of claim 1, wherein said primer seat comprises a cavity including a rear conical portion having a diameter decreasing towards said orifice and a forward cylindrical portion, and wherein said missile seat rim is formed by a removible primer retainer cylindrical member longitudinally traversed by said narrow passageway coaxially aligned with said bore.

4. The adaptor device of claim 3, wherein said position at one end of said bore comprises a circumpherencial step between said bore and said rear end cavity forming a seat for said primer retainer member.

5. The adaptor device of claim 1, wherein the length and the external diameter of said casing including said base are substantially those of the large-calibre munition of said firearm.

6. The adaptor device of claim 1, wherein the length of said casing including said base is substantially shorter than the length of the large-calibre munition of said firearm.

7. The adaptor device of claim 1, wherein said base includes a circumpherencial flange.

8. The adaptor device of claim 1, further including a barrel liner (183) having a length which is substantially that of said barrel and a longitudinal bore of a diameter which is substantially that of said reduced calibre.

9. The adaptor device of claim 8, wherein said liner is adapted to be pushed into the gun barrel through the muzzle end thereof until it abuts against said nose end of a casing loaded in the chamber.

10. The adaptor device of claim 9, wherein said liner has:
an external thread (95) partly protruding out of the gun barrel mouth at said muzzle end,
a sleeve (203) made from a deformible plastics material and which covers a part of the liner tube after the thread and
a nut (197) for screwing onto the thread to tighten against said sleeve until said sleeve expands diametrically to press against the internal wall of the barrel, thereby inmobilizing the liner tube.

11. The adaptor device of claim 9, wherein said liner has at least one O-ring (199) housed in a respective circumpherencial groove adjacent to the rear end of the tube to keep it centred inside the barrel and maintain a gap along the length between the tube and the barrel.

12. The adaptor device of claim 1, wherein said casing houses a longitudinally displaceable cannon containing said longitudinal bore for loading said reduced calibre munition and elastic means for resiliently urging the displaceable cannon towards said casing rear end, the nose end of said casing including an orifice sixed to enable said cannon to emerge therethrough under the effect of expansion gasses produced by a detonating primer struck by said firing pin.

13. The adaptor device of claim 12, wherein said elastic means is a spring wound around the displaceable cannon.

14. The adaptor device of claim 8, for revolver-type firearms, wherein said casing includes a longitudinally displaceable cannon and said liner has a rear end of a relatively soft plastics material for initially absorbing strikes from a displaceable cannon in said casing until said material becomes sufficiently gorged to abut said cannon in a maximum displaced position.

15. The adaptor device of claim 1, for revolver-type firearms, wherein said base is adapted to be screwed into or onto said casing to a variable degree to enable the length of said adaptor device to be adjusted to the length of the cylinder of the revolver.

16. The adaptor device of claim 15, wherein said casing further includes a forward tubular member containing said casing nose end, an intermediate member adjustably screw-coupled between said forward member and said base for adjusting the length of said adaptor device to said length of said revolver cylinder, and a counternut for mainting said adaptor device length.

17. The adaptor device of claim 1, for revolver-type firearms, wherein said casing nose end is adapted to be cut down to adjust the length of said adaptor device to the length of the cylinder of the revolver.